

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 /009 W  
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R 181520Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5060

C O N F I D E N T I A L NIAMEY 4633

STADIS//////////

FOR AF ONLY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, NG

SUBJECT: US FOOD AID - NIGER

REF: STATE 253823

1. RDO IS PUTTING FINISHING TOUCHES ON PRELIMINARY HARVEST ASSESSMENT AND WILL BE SUBMITTING AIDAC MESSAGE THIS WEEK REQUESTING DELIVERY OF SECOND TRANCHE OF 4500 TONS OF SORGHUM. GON IS SHOWING UNDERSTANDING AND RESPONSIVENESS ABOUT OUR DESIRE FOR DETAILED INFORMATION CONCERNING FOOD NEEDS, AND ON BASIS OF WHAT WE HAVE LEARNED SO FAR, RDO REELS THE CASE PRESENTED TO AID WILL BE A REASONABLY STRONG ONE. AT THE SAME TIME, I ASSUME DEPARTMENT AWARE EXERCISE IS NOT RPT NOT A FOOD AID "REQUEST" FROM NIGER WHICH WE ARE EXAMINING AB INITIO OR, INDEED, PURELY ON ITS ECONOMIC MERITS. FROM GON'S POINT OF VIEW THIS 4500 TONS WAS PROMISED AND COMMITTED BY US LAST JULY. AT THAT TIME, DELIVERY OF 4500 TONS WAS BROACHED TO PRESIDENT KOUNTCHE BY AMBASSADOR HECK ON INSTRUCTIONS AND IN UNCONDITIONAL REPEAT UNCONDITIONAL TERMS (SEE NIAMEY 3091). NEED TO JUSTIFY 4500 TONS FURTHER WAS POSED AS RETROSPECTIVE REQUIREMENT -- AND UNILATERALLY BY US -- AS A RESULT OF CERTAIN QUESTIONS RAISED WITHIN AID BY IGA. AS I HAVE BEEN TOLD ON TWO OCCASIONS AT REQUEST OF PRESIDENT KOUNTCHE, BASIC ISSUE IN GON'S EYES IS WHETHER WE INTEND TO KEEP A COMMITMENT ALREADY MADE (NIAMEY 3899 AND 4504).

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2. STRONGLY HOPE, THEREFORE, THAT AF WILL WEIGH IN WITH AID

AT APPROPRIATE TIME. THERE COULD NOT BE A WORSE BEGINNING FOR AMBASSADOR JAMES' ASSIGNMENT HERE THAN A SIGNAL TO KOUNTCHE THAT WE ARE NO LONGER GIVING HEED TO HIS BASIC CONCERNS. I BELIEVE DAVE SHEAR AND COMPANY ARE SYMPATHETIC TO NIGER'S REAL NEED AND TO POLITICAL DIMENSIONS OF THIS ISSUE. DIFFICULTY WOULD LIE ELSEWHERE IN AID.

3. BASIC POINT THAT OUGHT TO BE MADE, IN ADDITION TO ONGOING NEED WHICH MOST RECENT FIGURES SHOULD DEMONSTRATE, IS THAT IT IS SIMPLY TOO LATE IN THE GAME TO CHANGE SIGNALS NOW THAT ENGAGEMENT TO CHIEF OF STATE HAS BEEN MADE. SINCE ISSUE IS ONE OF PRINCIPLE FOR GON, ALSO STRONGLY HOPE THAT WE CAN HOLD TO TOTAL FIGURE OF 4500 TONS. REDUCING THIS AMOUNT, SPLITTING THE DIFFERENCE, OR OTHERWISE BACKSLIDING WILL NOT BE OF MUCH HELP IN ASSUAGING KOUNTCHE'S FUNDAMENTAL CONCERN.

4. MOST DISCOURAGING ASPECT OF THIS WHOLE EPISODE IS THAT IF BUREAUCRATIC SECOND THYGTHTS CARRY THE DAY AND THINGS GO SOUR IN OUR RELATIONS WITH KOUNTCHE, WE WILL HAVE ONLY OURSELVES TO BLAME. DAVISON

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FOOD ASSISTANCE, GRAINS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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